

SENATOR DICKINSON: Mr. Speaker and members of the body, I rise to support Senator Proud's motion, to strike this Carpenter amendment concerning equalizing transportation rates. I think this bill has been maneuvered, manipulated by Senator Carpenter. There has been tremendous pressure exerted and misleading information, I believe, to Nebraska retailers. I've contacted the President of the Nebraska Licensed Beverage Distributors. I believe that's the correct terminology. The Nebraska Licensed Beverage Association. I've seen a copy of a letter they sent to their retailers saying openly that Senator Carpenter is against it. That you as retailers contact your Senators and enclosed in this letter was a copy of a letter for them to sign. A self-addressed stamped envelope that I presume this Association paid for without very many of their members actually knowing what was going on. And Senator Carpenter indicated that there is complete agreement on this. I question this statement very highly. As I said, I don't think most of the dealers know what the score of. They really don't know what is going on. The dealers in Omaha area, near Omaha area, have been convinced that they are going to save money and obviously this isn't true. They will be subsidizing the western Nebraska dealers on this. Some of you might occasionally read the World Herald and notice that Senator Carpenter accused me of working for the Truck and/or Wholesale Liquor lobbies. Well, I will inform Senator Carpenter that as yet I haven't received any check from them. I could care less about the trucking industry or the wholesale liquor industry. It seems to me that this is very poor legislation, as has been mentioned about a few other things here today, to come in with an amendment on a bill that has been maneuvered all winter having things stricken, added to, and then again stricken so that it is very difficult to know what the Senator really wants in the legislation. Putting clauses in that grossly change the intent of the bill without a public hearing and this also has been discussed here and mentioned quite a bit. But this is a poor philosophy and poor legislation and I can't really believe that there are 25 people in this body that think that this was a good amendment. Now some of them no doubt do. I have all the respect in the world for those who voted conscientiously. For those who voted on it because they are indebted to or want him to be indebted to him, Senator Carpenter that is, then I question the wisdom of your vote. I heartily support Senator Proud's amendment to strike this amendment in the bill.

SPEAKER: The chair recognizes Senator Kelly.

SENATOR KELLY: Mr. President and members of the body, I contacted several knowledgeable liquor dealers in Grand Island over the weekend and I found that they were very highly in favor of the Carpenter amendment on 111. When I explained to them that the Liquor wholesalers could set the freight rate that they desire, that there is no controls whatsoever of any kind, and that probably an extremely beneficial windfall will be available to the liquor wholesalers in Omaha, without any exception the local dealers says that's fine with us if we can just all get the same price. And I said, now you recognize that the wholesaler can charge you the freight rate that he wants to charge without any regulation of any kind. Again they said, that's perfectly OK with us, as that if the wholesalers get so greedy that they would do this to us, certainly the state of Nebraska would take over the wholesale liquor business. Now I don't know whether that's the wind blowing or what it is but I am supporting the Carpenter amendments on the basis that the knowledgeable people in that industry say that they want it. It's in complete...I object completely with what they are telling me but I am voting my constituency in this issue.